

MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTING

(Pursuant to a resolution of the House of Representatives, of the 15th December last)

A STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES AND RECEIPTS IN THE

. INDIAN DEPARTMENT;

Also, the nature and extent of contracts entered into, and with whom, from the 2d of March, 1811, to the present period.

JANUARY 5, 1821.

Ordered to lie on the table.

WASHINGTON:

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1821.

TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

In compliance with a resolution of the House of Representatives of the 15th of December last, requesting "the President of the United States to cause to be laid before that House a statement of expenditures and receipts in the Indian department; also, the nature and extent of the contracts entered into, and with whom, from the 2d of March, 1811, to the present period," I now transmit a letter from the Secretary of War, with a report of the Superintendent of Indian trade, which contain the information desired.

JAMES MONROE.

Washington, Jan. 4th, 1821.

DEPARTMENT OF WAR,

3d January, 1821.

The Secretary of War, to whom was referred the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 15th ultimo, requesting the President of the United States "to cause to be laid before this House, a statement of expenditures and receipts in the Indian department; also, the nature and extent of the contracts entered into, and with whom, from the 2d of March, 1811, to the present period," has the honor to transmit, herewith, a report of the Superintendent of Indian trade, which comprehends all the information that can be furnished by the Department of War.

J. C. CALHOUN.

To the President of the United States.

OFFICE INDIAN TRADE,

26th December, 1820.

SIR: I have the honor, in compliance with your note of the 19th inst. "submitting to me the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 15th inst. requiring "a statement of expenditures and receipts in the Indian Department—also, the nature and extent of the contracts entered into, and with whom, from the 2d of March, 1811, to the present period," with a "request to be furnished with the information required," herewith to enclose abstract A, shewing the amount of receipts and expenditures, from April 1st, 1811, to 31st December, 1820, for each year, inclusive, with their respective headings. The first of April is recognized as it begins a quarter; and the difference in time, it is presumed, will not be considered important, especially as the previous month is in the same order, and embraces no new items. The 31st of December has been reached, so as to take in the period required by the resolution, and make out the last quarter of this year, by resorting to estimates for a part of the quarter.

In reply to the second division of the resolution, embracing a call for "the nature and extent of the contracts entered into, and with whom," for the same period, I have the honor to subjoin a copy of my letter to the honorable the Secretary of the Treasury, marked B, furnished at his request, under a similar call of the House of Representatives, of the 10th April last. This copy is given because it refers to papers which accompanied this letter, and are, therefore, not now in my possession, but which, it is presumed, are in the hands of the Committee on Indian Affairs, of last year. The Committee, having this copy, can more easily recognize the said papers by the corresponding letters of reference which they bear. There has been no contract entered into with any person since the date of this letter.

I have the honor to be,

Sir, with great respect,

Your obedient servant,

THO. L. MCKENNEY,

Superintendent Indian Trade.

To the hon. JOHN C. CALHOUN,

Secretary of War.

ABSTRACT exhibiting the Receipts and Expenditures in the Indian Trade Department, from the 1st of April, 1811, to the 31st of December, 1820, inclusive.

RECEIPTS.

	From the several Trading Houses in cash and drafts.	From the several Trading Houses on account of sales of Furs, &c.	For damaged merchandise sold.	For Interest on Notes.	Cash received from the annuity fund, for goods taken from the Trade stock.	From the Treasury for the salary of the Superintendent and his Clerks.	From the Treasury for the salary of the Factors and their Clerks.	TOTAL.	
In the year 1811	7,861 35	23,056 01			1,500 00	3,375 00	9,277 50	45,069 86	
1812	8,212 98	80,288 29			27,142 92	4,500 00	10,879 96	131,024 15	
1813	11,808 24	27,652 65			9,033 91	4,500 00	8,459 06	61,453 86	
1814	20,421 67	28,127 33			7,663 68	4,500 00	7,455 43	68,168 11	
1815	14,208 92	69,197 87		972 49	2,300 00	4,500 00	7,455 54	98,634 82	
1816	33,527 17	73,305 52	147 23	300 00	75,246 51	4,500 00	9,308 21	196,334 64	
1817	2,629 82	33,099 13	125 47	20 89	11,470 20	4,500 00	9,965 18	61,810 69	
1818	5,147 07	29,145 86	248 29	8 61	18,702 97	4,837 50	12,189 26	70,279 56	
1819	16,826 81	23,482 95	12 00	40 05	19,184 53	4,950 00	14,496 35	83,992 69	
1820	4,133 50	36,188 14		20 69	13,853 45	4,950 00	13,450 00	72,595 78	
Dollars,	124,777 53	428,544 75	532 99	1,362 73	186,098 17	45,112 50	102,936 49		Grand Total, \$ 889,364 16

EXPENDITURES.

	Merchandise forwarded the several Factories.	Transportation.	Contingencies.	Repairs of Factories.	Salary of the Superintendent and his Clerks.	Salary of the Factors and their Clerks.	TOTAL.	
In the year 1811	42,811 22	6,493 54	1,446 87		3,375 00	9,277 50	63,404 13	
1812	29,916 02	14,918 01	2,167 25		4,500 00	10,879 96	62,381 24	
1813	28,494 46	20,104 10	1,559 08		4,500 00	8,459 06	63,116 70	
1814	33,237 18	1,963 49	1,372 08		4,500 00	7,455 43	48,528 18	
1815	68,283 47	8,596 59	1,176 63		4,500 00	7,455 54	90,012 23	
1816	76,100 76	34,889 13	2,882 55		4,500 00	9,308 21	127,680 65	
1817	69,709 23	4,619 33	2,981 60	3,999 81	4,500 00	9,965 18	95,775 15	
1818	58,404 46	4,619 31	2,774 01		4,837 50	12,189 26	82,824 54	
1819	29,666 98	5,964 88	1,846 66		4,950 00	14,496 35	56,924 87	
1820	30,250 65	8,375 00	2,521 29		4,950 00	13,450 00	59,546 94	
Dollars,	466,874 43	110,543 38	20,728 02	3,999 81	45,112 50	102,936 49		Grand Total, \$750,194 63

OFFICE INDIAN TRADE,

26th December, 1820.

THOMAS L. M'KENNEY, Superintendent.

B.

OFFICE INDIAN TRADE, *April 14th, 1820.*

SIR: In reply to your request of the 12th inst. to be furnished as soon as possible, with the information required by a resolution of the House of Representatives of the 10th inst. "in relation to so much of said resolution as embraces the nature and extent of the contracts entered into by this office; also, the amount of debts due, and by whom"—I have the honor to submit the accompanying papers, marked A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, and K. These being copies of the original contracts (although those marked G and H are all that are entitled to be so called) will shew their "nature and extent," and with whom made. Papers marked L and M will shew the amount of moneys due to this office, and by whom.

It may not be deemed irrelevant to this inquiry, to remark, that contracts are seldom resorted to. A knowledge of the existence of a demand, for any description of articles, generally implies a correspondent ability to supply it. This office has always, in addition to the employment of agents in our principal commercial cities, whose correspondence furnishes a knowledge of the state of the markets, given information to all persons who have requested it, as to the particular articles in which it usually deals; furnishing, when required, samples of the same. Hence, but little difficulty has existed in realizing the necessary supplies, by the arrival of the season in which it is proper to transport them. Any interruption, or failure, to provide the suitable supplies by the arrival of the season for transportation, would involve, not only great disappointment, but much suffering, and excitement, amongst the Indians for whom they are destined. This is one of the reasons why it is deemed necessary to avoid, as much as possible, any mode of providing the articles necessary for the supplies, that should involve the slightest contingency: The forfeiture, and recovery of the penalty, usually affixed to contracts, for failure to comply with their conditions, furnishes no equivalent in such a case. Hence, merchandise suited to the wants and tastes of the Indians is procured, wherever, whenever, and of whomsoever, it can be had—and the storehouses of the superintendent are generally furnished with the necessary supplies, by the arrival of the period at which it is usual to transport them. The route being over mountains, and up rivers, the season which brings with it the best roads, and the best navigation, is resorted to; and it being usually of short duration, is another reason why the contingency implied in contracts is as much as possible avoided, and the markets resorted to in preference. Sometimes, when supplies are offered, particularly suited to the demands of this office, if there be means to purchase them, in anticipation, they are realized—it being considered safer to realize suitable goods, and goods for which it is known a demand

will arise, a few months in advance, than to leave them in the market, subject to be bought up, and thus removed from the control of the superintendent.

Nor is it the practice of this office to make advances. This is seldom done—indeed, never, except to mechanics of known probity, to purchase the raw materials for the manufacture of particular articles; and then, only on security; and in a few instances to manufacturers, as the contracts will show. Consequently, there are no debtors except those who become so by purchasing at the public sales of furs and peltries, on the time usually given. Such are the cases reported in paper marked L.

In the quarterly returns made to the Treasury, if they shall embrace, as they often do, payments made for merchandise purchased, advances will *appear* to have been made, until the subsequent quarter's returns are sent in with the invoices and vouchers, on account of which such payments were made; and which cannot always be got up and examined, and transmitted, with the returns, and in the same quarter.

I have the honor to be sir, &c. &c.

THO. L. MCKENNEY,
Superintendent Indian Trade.

The Hon. WILLIAM H. CRAWFORD,
Secretary of the Treasury.